

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05852 01 OF 02 072031Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13

AGRE-00 COME-00 ISO-00 L-03 /074 W

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R 071748Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 05852

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD

SUBJECT: RUBBER -- MEETING OF THE IRSG EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE, APRIL 5, 1977

1. A MEETING OF LONDON REPRESENTATIVES TO THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP WAS HELD APRIL 5, 1977,

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PAGE 02 LONDON 05852 01 OF 02 072031Z

UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ROBIN HOPE (UK), WITH THE U.S., U.S.S.R., JAPAN, THE FRG, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND THAILAND. SECRETARY GENERAL BATEMAN REPRESENTED THE SECRETARIAT.

2. MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE:

ITEM 3: FINANCE -- FIVE COUNTRIES, BURMA, INDONESIA,

IVORY COAST, MEXICO AND NIGERIA STILL HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED IN FULL FOR 1976/77. BURMA IS IN ARREARS IN THE AMOUNT OF 1,358 POUNDS FOR 1975/76. LIBERIA HAS MADE AN OVERPAYMENT WHICH SHALL BE CREDITED TO NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. AS OF FEBRUARY 28, INCOME (89,271 POUNDS) EXCEEDED EXPENDITURE (58,341 POUNDS); HOWEVER, BATEMAN ANTICIPATES ENDING THE YEAR IN ROUGH BALANCE.

ITEM 4. UNCTAD -- THE CHAIR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE IRSG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONSULTATIONS. MALAYSIA REPORTED HIGHLY ENCOURAGING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND OTHER CAPITALS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A NATURAL RUBBER (NR) STABILIZATION AGREEMENT. CHAIRMAN HOPE NOTED THE EC WAS ALSO CONSULTING VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS ON AN NR AGREEMENT. THE BOARD AGREED BATEMAN SHOULD ATTEND THE NEXT UNCTAD CONSULTATION, JUNE 2-11.

ITEM 5. HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT -- SEE LONDON 5665.

ITEM 6. AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL -- THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE GROUP THAT BATEMAN ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL, REPLACING DR. ROWZEE OF CANADA. MALAYSIA POINTED OUT THAT BATEMAN WAS TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED AND ROWZEE'S REPLACEMENT WOULD REPRESENT A SAVING SINCE THE IRSG PAID THE CHAIRMAN'S EXPENSES (BUT NOT THOSE OF OTHER PANELISTS) FOR ATTENDING PANEL MEETINGS. (NOTE: PRIOR TO THE JUNE GROUP MEETING, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSULT U.S. PANELISTS ON THIS ISSUE).

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED BATEMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT MEMBERS URGE THEIR INDUSTRY ADVISERS TO PARTICIPATE  
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PAGE 03 LONDON 05852 01 OF 02 072031Z

OPENLY IN DISCUSSION OF THE PANEL'S REPORT DURING THE "DISCUSSION FORUM" WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE MEETING OF THE GROUP, ON JUNE 22.

ITEM 7. GROUP MEETING -- AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. BATEMAN INFORMED USREP HE WISHED TO

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05852 02 OF 02 072030Z

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R 071748Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 05852

BEGIN CONSULTATIONS SHORTLY ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON' JUNE 19 - 23,  
1978.

ITEM 8. PREMISE -- NOTHING TO REPORT.

ITEM 9. STAFFING -- THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE STATIST-  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 05852 02 OF 02 072030Z

ICAL DEPARTMENT BY RECRUITMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL PROFESS-  
IONAL (A SENIOR STATISTICIAN) WAS RECOGNIZED, BUT NO  
DECISION WAS TAKEN. BATEMAN WAS ASKED TO DRAFT A TIME-  
TABLE FOR DEVELOPING A FULLY PROFESSIONAL, THREE-MAN  
UNIT. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE GROUP  
EXTENDING THE STATISTICAL CONSULTANT'S CONTRACT ON A  
YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS.

ITEM 10. BUDGET, 1977/78 -- AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION  
DURING WHICH THE FRG, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE U.K., ARGUED  
AGAINST ANY INCREASE IN BUDGET, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO  
INSTRUCT BATEMAN TO LIMIT THE INCREASE, IN A REVISED

DRAFT, TO ONLY 10,000 POUNDS, I.E., FROM 100,000 POUNDS FOR 76/77 TO 110,000 POUNDS FOR 77/78. (IN DOLLAR TERMS, THIS WOULD REPRESENT A DECLINE FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT BECAUSE OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES). LINE-ITEMS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY STAFF AND FOR ALLOCATION TO RESERVES WILL BE PARED. PRODUCERS, PARTICULARLY MALAYSIA, OPPOSED MORE DRASTIC ECONOMIES. THE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE BULLETIN TO \$50.00.

ITEM 11. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP -- MALAYSIA POINTED OUT THAT A PRODUCER NATION SHOULD ASSUME THE CHAIR. THE USSR, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE PROPER TO ELECT THE U.S. SINCE THE 1978 ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON. BATEMAN INTERVENED TO NOTE THAT IT WAS CUSTOMARY TO ELECT A RANKING OFFICIAL FROM THE HOST COUNTRY AS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN FOR THAT SPECIFIC MEETING, WHO MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME AS THE GROUP CHAIRMAN.

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